

# Man of the Year

**TOMMY McCARTIN** of McCartin Brothers, Newtowngore, has been elected Leitrim Guardian Man of the Year for 1978. His brother, Joe, the Senator, and the other half of the business partnership, was Man of the Year in 1972.

Without doubt the vote was influenced by the wide and deserved publicity given to the McCartin brothers during the year, in particular by the excellent RTE television programme of last April. It was proof that it was time that Leitrim conferred the Man of the Year title on both brothers. It is now the turn of Tommy.

The McCartin enterprises are already widely known, only the catalogue keeps growing longer. Eight companies with a combined turnover of more than eight million pounds per year; farms, piggeries and milling, a clothing factory, engineering works, the reclamation of 700 acres of mountain land, and, more recently a trading company in Dublin. McCartins are the lifeline of survival and revitalisation to several parishes; they are the biggest single employer of labour in Co. Leitrim.

Tommy McCartin is of a breed long respected in The United States of America, more lately given due recognition in this country, the self-made man, who will rise to the top if given the opportunity, for he has the courage to take risks and the ability to seize the chance. Such men are now among the biggest employers in Ireland, men without great academic or technological training, but men with fire and vision, who scorn the corral of security and make for the open plains. Tommy McCartin is one such man.

A businessman first and supreme. A talk with him in his office in the study of his house is constantly interrupted by phone calls put through from the switchboard, appointments made, appointments postponed, a long-distance esoteric conversation about a pig feed mixture, and you learn that it is the second place of decimals that makes the difference between break even and profit. Finally, to the switchboard, "no more calls, Mary", and you have his full attention.

Yes, he is a busy man. Up at 7.30 each morning and breakfast at 10. Morning is the time for plans and for a conference with Joe. Once or twice per week a trip to Dublin or Cork or anywhere. Office work when the day is over, 6 to 8 p.m. or maybe 11 p.m.

He always comes home at night. For he is very much a family man. His wife, Marie, nee Clarke, from Crossdoney, was a secretary in a banking company. Yes, she used to help him with correspondence and accounts, but now she 'is as busy as he is', with Helen (6), Therese (4½) and Bernard (2½).

# Tommy McCartin

- \* Entrepreneur
- \* Actor
- \* Community Worker
- \* Family Man
- \* Christian



*At home : Tommy and Marie with the children, from left, Helen, Bernard, Therese.*

He is not a man for the social life. He is on easy terms with very many of the top executives of the country, but he rarely attends their functions. Some he has to. He is vice-Chairman of the international Pigs and Bacon Committee of the I.F.A. He is a committee member of The Leitrim Guardian. He has been interested in drama since 1957. He won a Best Actor Award in J. B. Keane's 'The Field', and was in 'The Honeyspike' when The Carrigallen Community Players won the All-Ireland in 1975. He works in Community Care, is on the management board of Drumeela N.S. which his children attend, and finds that he is in a position to help the community in many ways, unobtrusively.

This is our salute to Tommy McCartin, Man of the Year 1978. Go neirigh an bóthar leis.

*Note: The McCartin Brothers have just received one of the twelve "People of the Year" Awards organised by the National Rehabilitation Institute. We were right!*